

DECORATION DAY.

Reasons for and Promoters of a Day of Joint Observance.
Editor of the Post.

Texas, June 30, 1897.—I note,

The Post of today, that at a recent meeting of the Sul Ross Camp of Confederate Veterans of Bonham, and Confederate Veterans of Bonham, some semi-political resolutions were adopted among others the following:

That whereas, there is now a move-

ment on foot in Texas, originated by the Army of the Republic to have the

City of May declared a legal holiday

in our present legislature; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the senator and repre-

sentatives at Austin are hereby requested

to instruct in every themselves to the

instruct to prevent such legislation; that

the secretary of this camp;

he can only refer to the action of a

committee anointed from the Grand

Council of the Republic, the United Confed-

erate Veterans and the Texas Volunteer

Army of this city, to arrange for suitable

moral services on last Decoration day.

The authors of the above resolutions have

misunderstood the purpose of the

movement referred to, as well as the cir-

cumstances under which it originated.

In the first place, it is well to explain

that the ex-Federal and ex-Confederate

men of Houston realize that the war

was over for a long time, and they

were glad of it; they realized that they

were common citizens of a common com-

mon and glorious country, too,

which we all love—they not only respect

each other, but are strong friends, per-

sonally and because they were participants

in the unfortunate strife that all must re-

sult. At the late State encampment of the

Army held in this city, the Confed-

erate camp was invited as a "body," and

the ex-Confederates, principally, to at-

tend the camp fire and entertainment given

to the local post to the delegates from

the various camps. They were there in large

numbers; ex-Confederates acted upon the

action and other committees and joined

making the occasion one of hearty good

will and pleasure.

Until the last occasion, on our National

Decoration day, the members of the Grand

Army post had invited their ex-Confed-

erate friends to join them in the services,

and for many years they have resolu-

ted part. This year it was determined to do

so the day when the "reunion" so

was a portion of the country, one of gen-

eral assemblies, and that and it was ar-

gented that the preparations for the occas-

ion should be placed in the hands of a

committee composed of members of

the Grand Army, the Confederate camp

and the Texas Volunteer Guard; and the

general was invited to participate,

leading citizens were personally invited to

attend the meetings of the committee; they

and took as much part in the pro-

ceedings did the regular members (see).

The resolution asking the governor to

submit to the extra session of the legis-

lature the bill for the 30th of June, 1897,

for a legal holiday in Texas, and rec-

ognizing favorable action from that body,

written and offered by one of the old-

est, best known and most highly respected

and esteemed citizens of Houston, Mr. G. K. Kim, secretary of the Cotton Exchange.

At that meeting there were so many offi-

cials present that all could not get in the

room and quite a number stood about the

door in the hallway. Among those present

members of the Grand Army of the

Republic, General Richard Cooke,

Colonel W. A. Childers, Captains Rele-

ward, a Texas veteran; Captain Craig of

the Knights of Pythias; Mr. O'Neill of

the Woodmen of the World; Messrs. S. B.

Evans, T. J. Monahan and D. B. Bryan,

among those who expressed their

desire to be present but were unavoid-

ably detained—General George H. Bush,

ex-Congressman; General T. H. Scanlon,

W. House, Mr. W. H. Cleveland,

J. R. Watson, Colonel R. H. M.

Preston, D. C. Smith and Dr.

John G. Tol—In fact it was

the general interest of the

citizens manifested by the numbers es-

ecially attending the services,

and at least 2000 people at

one would otherwise have been

at the committee appointed memo-

ries of the governor and legislature were

Kidd, chairman; Mr. W. H. B. Rice,

R. B. Baer, General T. B. How-

ard and General Charles G. May,

being the only representative of the

Army of the Republic. Although the

general was appointed by the chairman

and the wishes of those present

and the names named were the unani-

mous choice of each

member each from the Grand Army

of the Confederacy and the Volun-

teer Guard. At the express request of

the members of the committee from the

Army, an ex-Confederate was se-

lected, and the classic address of Col. J. W.

alone, whether he were the man or

not known graves of all deceased

in the Confederacy, were marked

with distinction by those

who tenderly shown or known by those

dear hearts. Those graves with

participated in by the Grand Army of the

Confederacy, the Daughters of the

Confederacy and the Texas Veterans, repre-

senting General Howard, a veteran of

the Texas revolution, the Mexican war and

the Confederate army. In line with the

particular camp, four companies of the

Grand Army, Uniform Rank, Knights

of the Woods, and six camps of the Woodmen

of the World.

This movement referred to did not originate

in the fact that the congress of the

four States and the deliberations of their

legislatures have made Decoration day

a national holiday, but rather than that

the same day set apart by different organi-

zations, also thought that the

action taken was to select

the general purpose.

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the G. A. R. is the reason for it.

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With us it matters little whether a

blue or a gray, for the veterans of

the Civil War have long since forgotten what

resentment or ill feeling that ever

exists among the soldiers; we are now

open to all social meetings of the Ge-

orgia, the United Confederate Veterans,

the Daughters of the Confederacy, the

Knights of the Woods, and the Woodmen

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